

Linda Griffin

Gamecock Diner Supervisor

Walking into the Gamecock Diner on a dreary Friday morning, I find Mrs. Linda Griffin, supervisor of the diner, hard at work making preparations for lunch. I ask if she is ready to be interviewed and photographs, and after a quick peek outside at the drizzling rain, we decide to take her picture in her second home, the Diner.

The Diner is a second home for Mrs. Linda in a variety of ways. Not only does she spend a tremendous amount of time there, but it's where she welcomes students with open arms. She knows the names of most of her students, despite the wide variety that walk through those doors. Many students on campus, especially the football players, see her as a second mom. There are a variety of reasons for that, but most notably it is the fact that she does her best to treat her students with respect and understanding. It stems from her belief in treating others as you would like to be treated. She realizes that for many students it has been several months since they have been able to see their parents, and as a mother of three, she wants them to feel welcome.



As we sit down to talk, I ask a variety of questions about her past and how she ended up working with Sodexo. As we discuss her nine-year experience with Sodexo, working her way up from grill cook, to head cashier, and eventually supervisor, I learn a lot about Mrs. Linda.

She grew up as one of seven siblings, second to last. She often found herself in the kitchen with her mom, learning how to do one of the things she loves best, cooking. Upon graduation, she began working in food service, quickly working her way up the ladder, much like her time at Sodexo, completing a manager's course and graduating summa cum laude. However, after coming to the realization that fast food hours were not always the best, she interviewed with Sodexo and the rest became history.

Mrs. Linda is not boastful about her abilities, but that does not prevent her talent from shining through. In fact, half way through the interview she had to jump up to make sure her red velvet cake did not burn. In case you haven't heard about Mrs. Linda's red velvet cake, ask one of the football players, or anyone who enjoys dining at the diner. She cooks one every Friday, but you had better get there quick if you want a piece because it is in high demand. Her gift with red velvet cake was discovered last Fall when, as a surprise for making the playoffs, she made one for the football team. Since, she estimates that she has made about 100 cakes for Coach Grass and the team alone. That doesn't include the ones that are requested by faculty and staff for catering events. If you were one of the lucky raffle winners at last Valentine's Day's steak dinner in the Cafe you would know what everyone is talking about, but don't make the mistake in thinking that all of Mrs. Linda's talent lies in cooking and baking.

When Mrs. Linda is away from her second home, you can usually find her camping at the river doing her best to out fish her husband which has thus far proven to be impossible since he refuses to go home until he has caught a bigger fish (but you didn't hear that from us). In addition to her three children and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Linda has a precious granddaughter, Caydence, who always provides her with entertainment and a fun story to share with the staff.

So, the next time you're hungry or feeling a little homesick, go visit Mrs. Linda and her crew at the Diner. Make sure you get there early in time to grab a piece of her homemade red velvet cake before the football team!